

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action sets forth the following requirement for restriction:

- I. claims 1-24 and 26-32 as directed to a process and apparatus to produce a liquid concentrate, classified in class 366, subclass 152.1; and
- II. claims 25 and 33-36 as directed to a process of preparing liquid colorant, classified in class 366, subclass 189.

Applicant elects, without traverse, the claims of Group I directed to processes and apparatus which includes pending claims 1-24 and 26-32. Claims 25 and 33-36 that are the subject of non-elected Group II have been cancelled without prejudice to submit such claims in a divisional application.

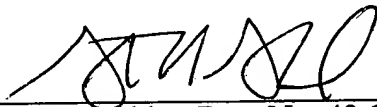
The Office Action has also set forth an election of species requirement. Applicants elect, without traverse, a colorant (Group A) as the elected species of the recited groups of additives. Claims 1-24 and 26-32 of Group I read on the elected species.

Conclusion

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 23, 2002



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In re Appln. of COSMAN et al.
Application No. 09/884,551

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Amendment – Fee, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 12/23/02





PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 211650

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

COSMAN et al.

Application No. 09/884,551

Filed: June 18, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Tony G. Soohoo

For: PROCESS AND DISPENSING SYSTEM
FOR PREPARING LIQUID
CONCENTRATES FOR PLASTICS

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS
MADE IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

(Deletions indicated by brackets; insertions indicated by underlining)

Amendments to existing claims:

25. (Cancelled) /

33. (Cancelled) /

34. (Cancelled) /

35. (Cancelled) /

36. (Cancelled) /

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**PENDING CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENTS
MADE IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2002**

1. A process for preparing a liquid concentrate for use in the manufacture of plastic parts comprising:
 - (a) preparing one or more liquid intermediates, wherein the liquid intermediates comprise a liquid vehicle and at least one additive;
 - (b) standardizing the liquid intermediates;
 - (c) transferring the standardized liquid intermediates to a remote location; and
 - (d) dispensing the liquid intermediates to produce a liquid concentrate, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate dispensed is controlled according to a predetermined formula for the liquid concentrate.
2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate dispensed is controlled by a computer that contains the predetermined formula.
3. The process according to claim 2, wherein the formula is gravimetric.

4. The process according to claim 3, wherein the gravimetric formula is inputted into the computer locally.
5. The process according to claim 3, wherein the gravimetric formula is inputted into the computer remotely.
6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a colorant, an optical brightener, a laser marking additive, an anti-settling agent, a blowing agent, a release agent, a light stabilizer, and mixtures thereof.
7. The process according to claim 2, wherein the dispensing of the liquid intermediates in step (d) is controlled by a computer.
8. The process according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the liquid intermediates is agitated after step (c) and before step (d).
9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the liquid intermediate is agitated by recirculating the intermediate.
10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the recirculation of the liquid intermediate is computer controlled.
11. The process according to claim 7, wherein the liquid intermediates are dispensed in order of heaviest intermediate on a weight basis to smallest intermediate on a weight basis.
12. The process according to claim 7, wherein the formula is prepared prior to step (d) based on additive requirements received from the user of the liquid concentrate.
13. A process for preparing a liquid concentrate for use in the manufacture of plastic parts comprising:
 - (a) providing one or more liquid intermediates, wherein the liquid intermediates comprise a liquid vehicle and at least one additive, wherein the liquid intermediates are standardized, and wherein the liquid intermediates have been prepared remotely; and

(b) dispensing the liquid intermediates to produce a liquid concentrate, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate dispensed is controlled according to a predetermined formula for the liquid concentrate.

14. The process according to claim 13, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate is controlled by a computer that contains the predetermined formula.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the formula is gravimetric.

16. The process according to claim 15, wherein the gravimetric formula is inputted into the computer locally.

17. The process according to claim 15, wherein the gravimetric formula is inputted into the computer remotely.

18. The process according to claim 1, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a colorant, an optical brightener, a laser-marking additive, an anti-settling agent, a blowing agent, a release agent, a light stabilizer, and mixtures thereof.

19. The process according to claim 13, wherein the dispensing of the liquid intermediates in step (b) is controlled by a computer.

20. The process according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the liquid intermediates is agitated after step (a) and before step (b).

21. The process according to claim 20, wherein the liquid intermediate is agitated by recirculating the liquid intermediate.

22. The process according to claim 21, wherein the recirculation of the liquid intermediate is controlled by a computer.

23. The process according to claim 19, wherein the liquid intermediates are dispensed in order of heaviest liquid intermediate on a weight basis to smallest liquid intermediate on a weight basis.

24. The process according to claim 13, wherein the formula is prepared prior to step (b) based on additive requirements received from the user of the liquid concentrate or determined as part of the formula development process.

26. A dispensing system to prepare a liquid concentrate for use in the manufacture of plastic parts comprising:

(a) a plurality of containers each containing a standardized liquid intermediate prepared at a location remote from the dispensing system; and

(b) a dispensing machine for dispensing a plurality of liquid intermediates to produce a liquid concentrate, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate dispensed is controlled according to a predetermined gravimetric formula for the liquid concentrate, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate is controlled by a computer that contains the predetermined gravimetric formula, and wherein the dispensing of the liquid intermediates is controlled by the computer.

27. The dispensing system according to claim 28, wherein the predetermined gravimetric formula for the liquid concentrate is selected by the operator of the dispensing machine from a formula library stored in the computer.

28. An automated dispensing system for preparing a liquid concentrate for use in the manufacture of plastic parts comprising:

(a) a plurality of containers each containing a standardized liquid intermediate prepared at a location remote from the dispensing system;

(b) a computer for selecting a predetermined gravimetric formula for a desired liquid concentrate; and

(c) a dispensing machine for dispensing a plurality of liquid intermediates to produce the desired liquid concentrate, wherein the quantity of each liquid intermediate is controlled by a computer that contains the predetermined gravimetric formula, and wherein the dispensing of the liquid intermediates is controlled by the computer.

29. The dispensing system according to claim 28, wherein the predetermined gravimetric formula for the liquid concentrate is selected by the operator of the dispensing machine from a concentrate formula library stored in the computer.

30. The dispensing system according to claim 29, wherein the gravimetric formula for the liquid concentrate is generated by an operator using one or more of the liquid intermediates identified in an intermediate library stored in the computer.

31. The dispensing system according to claim 30, wherein the computer further tracks the inventory of liquid intermediates dispensed, and determines if a sufficient quantity of each liquid intermediate in the predetermined gravimetric formula is available for dispensing pursuant to step (c).

32. The dispensing system according to claim 31, wherein the computer further bills the user for the liquid concentrates dispensed automatically at specified intervals.